



Faculty Senate

@ Northwestern State University



NSU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – *March 27, 2018*

3:30 p.m. in the Cane River Room, Student Union

- **Call to Order.** 3:32 pm

- **Presentations (Strategic Plan, General Education, Assessment, QEP, Other)**

Dr. Vickie Gentry, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Updates from office of Academic Affairs, Office of Institutional Effectiveness, etc, related to SACSCOC, core revisions, strategic budgeting, QEP progress, and goals of academic side of university.

SACSCOC: 5 objectives and metrics for assessing academic excellence; improvement is key. Findings will be presented to the President in July, all are welcome to attend and give input. Happy to come back to Faculty Senate in the fall to share that report, too.

Core revisions: La Board of Regents went from 10 to 6 competencies in 2012; NSU had 12. Core revisions align with BOR, are minor changes and with a consistent approach. In Fall 2016, year of onsite visit, in anticipation of visit, eliminated 2 competencies in fall 2017 (personal values system and healthy behaviors [was personal fitness and wellness course that was no longer in core]). Was not an area of concern in SACSCOC report but we were lucky—we didn't have the evidence to show that we were meeting the 10 competencies. So we immediately started working on alignment with state requirements. CRC meeting today to vote on the 6 core competencies that align with the BOR. There is not a reduction in Core courses but an increase and realignment with the recognition that core courses should be an introduction to a field and not upper-level courses exclusive to particular majors.

Question: where can I find this material to share with my faculty? Answer: Plan is that everything will be given to Faculty Senate to distribute.

Mr. Bill Brent for QEP presentation

7 pilot programs in spring 2017; quality enhancement capstone. Fall 2018 will submit grant application April 30, May team meeting, then approval. One more year and then every department will be active in QEP. Positive feedback from program coordinators, benefiting students. Not a lot of data yet (60-70 student responses) because first graduates in fall, recognized in program with QEP symbol. Eventually all students will go through plan and then we will cease program label.

Data we do have: 50% had average score of 3 or higher. Lowest scores on the rubric were from SLO 2.4 and SLO 2.5 but might have been affected by a difficult application within particular programs. Response: revise slightly or change wording as needed to adapt to variety of programs using the rubric.

This is our QEP so it's adapting and fluid according to NSU needs. Valuable amount of buy-in by departments and students.

Next QEP retreat: August 14th



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Question: is survey the only instrument? Answer: No, both direct and indirect assessment. Each program has assessments they are doing; rubric 1 capstone; rubric 2 reflection; university supervisor evaluating candidates. Question: how are you assessing us? Says “Assessment of the QEP.” Answer: Program coordinator and administrator surveys. Question: some surveys have gotten lost, students didn’t receive them. What’s the solution? Answer: glitch with survey monkey, has been corrected.

Mr. Frank Hall, Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Human Resources

SACS:

Summer 2016, uni preparing report for SACS. Not a lot of evidence to support our facility in 64 standards of SACS. 5 of us sat during summer and tried to answer the-then 94 questions, all of which went to the off-site committee, they sent back 27ish to be readdressed. On-site committee then verified if our revisions were 9 not met with adequate evidence. Standard 3.3.1.1 Institutional Effectiveness (provide evidence of improvement based on analysis of results in SLOs). Can’t just say students have met thresholds and programs will continue to monitor.

We did a great job picking out instruments for assessment, but we didn’t have enough history (can’t show improvement without more than one data point). We have a course of action and are implementing that to provide evidence. They are looking for “in response we will leverage technology, hire new faculty with different skillset, etc.”

Monitoring report due September 7, 2018. Next report in 2022.

Question: I don’t understand why we have outside accrediting agencies monitoring anything. Why do they have so much power?” Answer: Higher ed under a microscope regarding the quality of education it produces; federal govt pays gazillions of dollars; wants to know that it’s getting its money’s worth. SACSCOC is probably one of the most rigorous. Question: are the politicians satisfied? Answer: I have no idea. Is your program getting better because it’s going to be assessed? Yes, probably. And that’s the whole point, really, is improving education.

Takeaway is that we are reaffirmed and we have a course of action in place. Thank you all for your work to make that the case!

Know that everything we do rests on our mission; driver of what we do, mission is marching orders. Core values is how we do our mission, implications of what and how we do what we do.

Multifocused approach to data collection and constant feedback with a strategic focus and operational focus. Dr Gentry does assessment of academics; likewise the other areas— personally by their deans or VPs. University’s SLOs reflected in the Core were not being assessed when cohort of 1500 was being assessed in 200 cases, for example. Now will assess about 2000 students every year with regards to the competencies now.

Strategic plan is also under review and will be improved upon.

Institutional effectiveness is the first slide, all assessments are available and feedback welcome.



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BUDGET designed to be grassroots but need enough funding to make it worthwhile; not there yet with discretionary funding but Dr Maggio willing to take a risk and has started with enhancements. Competitive process, 65 requests submitted 2.1M\$; had to be a structure built so there's a SPB committee Chaired by Dr Gentry. Tried to build an organization that's unbiased. Ranked rather than yes/no. Administration got an unbiased view of the requests of the university. Watch for results posted by Dr Maggio on April 8th.

All strategic documents available on the website.

- **Approval or Correction of the Minutes** from January 23, 2018 and February 27, 2018.

Motion: Braun

Second: Green

- **Reports from Standing Committees.**

- Executive Council (Thomas Reynolds, Chair)
Attended ULS Healthy and Productive workshop in BR; HR and legal responsibilities in relationship to diversity. Emphasized Dr Henderson's initiatives to increase diversity across all campuses. Ongoing.
- Committee on Committees (John Dunn, Chair)
Nominations for faculty senate executive council are open and will remain open until next meeting. Pres, VP, Secretary, parliamentarian. Dunnj@nsula.edu. Must be a faculty senator currently.
- Faculty Standards Committee (Terrie Poehl, Chair)
None.

- **Reports from Select Committees.**

- Faculty Leave Committee (Jason Powell)
Has not met but in contact with Dr Gentry, email about form for hours worked, very important they are filled out etc. Will meet with her sometime soon about the actual leave policy.
- Calendar Committee (John Dunn)
Met, have dates for 2019 year. See attachment.
- Adjunct Pay Committee (Jason Powell)
Met, idea to increase adjunct pay. Right now tied to extra services contract informally; idea is that if we can increase one we can perhaps increase both. Our adjuncts are getting paid \$1600 for MA, right at the bottom of universities similar to us. If we add \$400, it gets us above McNeese, might attract better and more faculty adjuncts. Add to terminal degrees (now \$2000) puts us in competition with Southeastern. To be a premier regional uni, have to be competitive faculty. Additional



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- rational for why this is a reasonable request is welcome.
Send to Jason.
- **Unfinished (Old) Business.**
 - **New Business**
 - WRAC Membership Fees (Reynolds)
President asked to consider reduced or free WRAC membership; brought to leadership meeting; Mr Pierce ran the numbers and biggest issue is WRAC is funded by student fees and worry that students will not like paying more than faculty when they already are burdened by fees. Will only reduce to \$22/month or thereabouts, which is what students pay. Can join walking club at noon every day for \$5/month for access to the track. What they are trying to do is make all these areas self-funding. If students voted on giving us access, it might happen. Reynolds would love to hear better or different ideas about how to persuade.
 - Graduation Faculty Marshalls (Reynolds)
Registrar would like to know about any retiring faculty members for marshall positions. Email if you know of any retirees.
 - **Announcements and Discussion.**
 - Brett Garfunkel: if in town spring break, national dance conference at NSU, 450 people on campus, 4-7th of April. Please come and see! Our students are performing on the Friday afternoon show.
 - Research day deadline is this Friday. If you had a provost grant for research, consider submitting something and encourage your students too. It is April 12th.
 - April 11th is ULS day in BR. If your students miss for attending they should have a letter. NSU is trying to bring 500 students this year, the largest contingent ever.
 - **Adjourn.** 4:51pm
Move McClain
Second Granger

REMINDER: Departments should elect one Senator for every 10 full-time faculty members or fraction thereof (for example, 27 full-time faculty members would be represented by 3 Senators. Announcements of new senators should be emailed to Senate Secretary, Terrie Poehl, poehl@nsula.edu. **The next scheduled meeting is April 24, 2018.**
Join us on WebEx: <https://nsula.webex.com/join/reynoldst>